

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

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Bulgarian Army

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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Gas Masks

1. [ ] an unknown number of gas masks of the following description in a storeroom of the 16 Mountain Brigade headquarters unit in Zvezdets. They were covered with a white powder and hung by the head straps. [ ] they were made in Bulgaria in 1942. The masks only cover the face, and they are held on by straps around the head. The face piece is made of silver colored rubber. The eye pieces are of mica and are about seven centimeters in diameter. There is a mouth piece which is a slightly conical can with a hole in the center of the end. It is about 10 centimeters long and 10-12 centimeters in diameter. A stretchable hose, about 50-60 centimeters long and 3-4 centimeters in diameter when in normal position, is attached to the mask below the mouth piece and connects with an approximately 15 x 6 x 15 centimeter cannister worn at the waist. When not in use, the mask is carried in a bag made of tenting material. [ ]

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Ammunition Manufacture

2. The Military Factory #10 located in Kazanluk produces 8 mm. carbine ammunition, 75 mm. artillery ammunition and various small spare parts.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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Weapons Information

3. The German 7.92 or 8 mm. "M.G." light machine gun M 1941/2 is about 1.15 meters long and weighs no more than 13 kilograms. The ammunition is belt fed, and the maximum range is approximately 2400 meters. This weapon is carried by one person and is currently used by Border Guard units. 25X1
4. The Degtyarev 7.62 mm. automatic rifle M 1941 is approximately 1.25 meters long and weighs about 5.5 kilograms. The rifle is gas operated, has a 10 round clip and an approximate effective range of about 1500 meters. It is currently in use in infantry units.
5. The D.Sh.K 12.5 mm. antiaircraft heavy machine gun M 1941 is about 1.80 meters long and the gun without mount weighs about 100 kilograms. The gun has a 50 round drum magazine attached on the side, fires approximately 150 rounds per minute and an approximate effective range of 3000 meters. The gun may be mounted on a tripod or on a more mobile two wheel carriage when it is used against ground targets. It is handled by three men.
6. All of the Rhinemetall 80 mm. mortars in the Bulgarian Army were sent to the ammunition factory in Kazanluk where they were enlarged to 82 mm. in order to make them the same calibre as the Soviet mortars.
7. The barrel of the 107 mm. Soviet mortar M 1941 weighs about 90 kilograms. The pedestal weighs about 35 kilograms. The mortar is moved on a carriage with two rubber tires, drawn by two horses, or is loaded on three donkeys. The mortar can be elevated from 35 to 70 degrees. It is marked for ranges from 100-120 to 4,000 meters and can be fired up to 4,500 meters. (See paragraph 24).
8. The Rhinemetall 88 mm. howitzer M 1941 has a maximum elevation of 60 degrees. It is moved on a carriage with two rubber tires by an unspecified number of horses. It is used by divisional artillery units.
9. The Krupp 105 mm. howitzer M 1911 has a maximum elevation of 65 degrees and an effective range of 13 kilometers. The barrel is 2.5 meters long. It is moved on a carriage with a pair of wooden wheels by six or eight horses. Nine men handle the howitzer. It is used in divisional artillery units.
10. The Krupp 150 mm. howitzer M 1939/41 is mounted on two wheel rubber tires. It is moved by a truck utilizing a two wheeled trailer. The howitzer weighs 10,000 kilograms, and has a barrel length of four meters. Maximum elevation is 60 degrees and the range is 18 kilometers. The gun crew is 10-11 men. The gun is used in Army heavy artillery units.
11. The Soviet 75 mm. field gun M 1941 weighs about 960 kilograms, has a barrel about 1.80 meters long and is moved on two rubber tired wheels by two pairs of horses. It is used by rifle regiments.
12. The ZIS-3, 75 mm. multipurpose gun M 1941 is mounted on a pair of rubber tires and is pulled by six horses or a truck. The barrel is 2.40 meters long and weighs 1,300 kilograms. 25X1  
 28 types of shells are used with this gun, that in Bulgaria eight types of shells are used and that the gun has an effective range of 13 kilometers. The gun is handled by nine men and is used in divisional artillery units particularly as an antitank gun. 25X1
13. The Krupp Bofors 75 mm. M 1911 mountain gun is broken down into nine pack loads.
14. The Krupp-Schneider 75 mm. antitank gun M 1941 is used by regimental artillery units.

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15. The ZIS 37 mm. antiaircraft gun has a 10 round magazine loaded from the top. The barrel is two meters long. It is mounted on a carriage with four rubber tires and is pulled by a prime mover. It has an effective range of 4,500 meters and is handled by seven men.
16. The ZIS 75 mm. antiaircraft gun M 1941 has a three round magazine. The barrel is approximately 3.5 meters long. The effective range is 7,000 meters. It is mounted on a carriage with four rubber tires. Seven men handle the gun.

Ammunition Markings and Characteristics (The figures below are keyed to Appendix A to this report)

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17. Ammunition for 7.62 mm. Tolski Tokarev pistols and 7.62 mm. submachine guns are as shown in Figure 1 a. The cartridge case is copper-colored, and the bullet is a darker copper color. The base markings of Soviet-made rounds are as shown in Figure 1 b. Identical rounds of Bulgarian manufacture have "1949" on the base.
18. German-made rounds for the Zbrojovka 7.65 mm. pistol are brass-colored, as shown in Figure 2 a. The base markings are as in Figure 2 b. Identical Bulgarian-made rounds carry "1948" or "1949" on the base as shown in Figure 2 c.
19. Rounds for 7.62 heavy machine guns are Soviet-made and as shown in Figure 3 a. The cartridge case and bullet are copper-colored. The base carries "1944" and the percussion cap is painted black as shown in Figure 3 b. Identical rounds with the tip of the bullet painted black are used with 7.62 mm. Sniper rifles as shown in 3 c.
20. Carbine 8 mm. German-made "S" type (heavy duty, long) rounds have pointed bullets and "1938", "1939" and "1941" base markings. The bullet and percussion caps are red-copper-colored, and the cartridge is brass-colored. The bullet of similar 8 mm. machine gun rounds are silver-colored, and there is a black painted ring about the percussion cap. Formerly there were Bulgarian-made 8 mm. rounds, "O" type (regular short) but these have been eliminated at least from the 16 Mountain Rifle Brigade.
21. Rounds for 14.5 mm. Soviet antitank rifles are as shown in Figure 4 a and b. The bullet tip and rim of the percussion cap are painted black.
22. Krupp Bofors 75 mm. ammunition is as shown in Figure 5. The cartridge case is brass-colored. The projectile is green, and the fuse is made of aluminum (sic). Informant has seen shells as follows:
  - a. Figure 5 a. Cartridge case;
  - b. Figure 5 b. Projectile, front view;
    - (1) BFG (BVF) Bulgarian military factory
    - (2) BFG (BFG) Bulgarian Fugasha Granata (sic)
    - (3) 1939
    - (4) Four crosswise parallel white lines
  - c. Figure 5 c. Projectile, rear view;
    - (1) BFG-45
    - (2) B-1
  - d. Figure 5 d. Fuse, front view; and 0 and 2 are on each side of a hole (as indicated);

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e. Figure 5 e. Fuse, rear view; 1939 model.

f. Figure 5 f. Base of cartridge case:

- (1) 75
- (2) 1939
- (3)
- (4) (KB) Krupp Bofors.

23. Projectiles for 50 mm. and 75 mm. Rhinometal antitank guns are shown in Figure 6 as follows:

- a. Figure 6 a. "Oskolochen" type, (complete round) used against infantry; silver-colored cartridge, green projectile, aluminum (sic) fuse;
- b. Figure 6 b. "Podkalibren" type, (complete round) armor piercing; silver-colored cartridge; green projectile; black tip;
- c. Figure 6 c. Projectile of "Podkalibren" round
  - (1) "Kalpak" - Wind shield
  - (2) "Yadka" - Core of very hard steel
  - (3) "Splaf" - Alloy (sic)
- d. Figure 6 d. "Broneprobivan" type, (complete round) armor piercing; black projectile; and
- e. Figure 6 e. Fuse; bearing initials "AZW."

24. Projectile for 107 mm. mortars are German-made and as shown in Figure 7. The powder charge is placed in horseshoe-shaped silk bags. A maximum of four bags are used for one round. Four sizes of projectiles, weighing 8.0, 8.4, 8.8, and 9.3 kilograms are used. [redacted] whether parallel crosses or straight lines are used to indicate the weight classification of the projectiles. The fuse is black, and the projectile brown-black.

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25. Projectiles for 82 mm. mortars are German-made and as shown in Figure 8. The fuses are of black bakelite or aluminum (sic). The projectile is brown-black. The propellant charge is horseshoe-shaped, one millimeter thick and with holes. Ten charges are placed in a silk bag and a maximum of four bags are used for each round.

#### Mines

- 26. The Bulgarian Army has antitank mines which are 50 centimeters in diameter and 15 centimeters thick. They are made of metal. The firing mechanism is in the center of the top and the mines are exploded by 250 kilograms pressure.
- 27. The Bulgarian Army has antipersonnel mines which are made of wood and are 15 x 10 x 7-8 centimeters. The boxes are painted red except for those portions which might be visible when the mine is set which are covered with pitch. The mine contains 300 grams of explosive. A small stick placed in a hole in the end of the box supports the lid which acts as a trigger. The mine is set off by about five kilograms pressure on the lid.

#### Grenades

28. Grenades in use by the Bulgarian Army include the following:

- a. Egg shaped German offensive grenades;
- b. Handle-type Bulgarian offensive grenades, 750 grams;
- c. Handle-type Bulgarian defensive grenades, 900 grams; and
- d. Small can type Soviet offensive grenades.

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29.  two types of Bulgarian-made grenades as follows:

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## a. Assault grenade with the following characteristics:

- (1) Diameter, 9 centimeters (maximum);
- (2) Cylindrical shape;
- (3) Overall length (with handle), 30-35 centimeters;
- (4) Weight of charge, 450-500 grams;
- (5) Total weight, 750 grams;
- (6) Dynamite charge, average delaying period, 5.3 seconds;
- (7) Fragmentation radius, 5 meters;
- (8) Case of thin tinned plate;
- (9) Primer and detonator are attached by means of a screw.

## b. Defensive grenade with the following characteristics:

- (1) Sliced egg-shape maximum diameter, 6-7 centimeters;
- (2) Length of handle, 10-15 centimeters;
- (3) Total length, about 25 centimeters;
- (4) Weight of grenade (including the charge), 750 grams;
- (5) Weight of explosive, 150 grams;
- (6) Average delaying period, 5.3 seconds;
- (7) Effective radius, 20 meters.

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Appendix A

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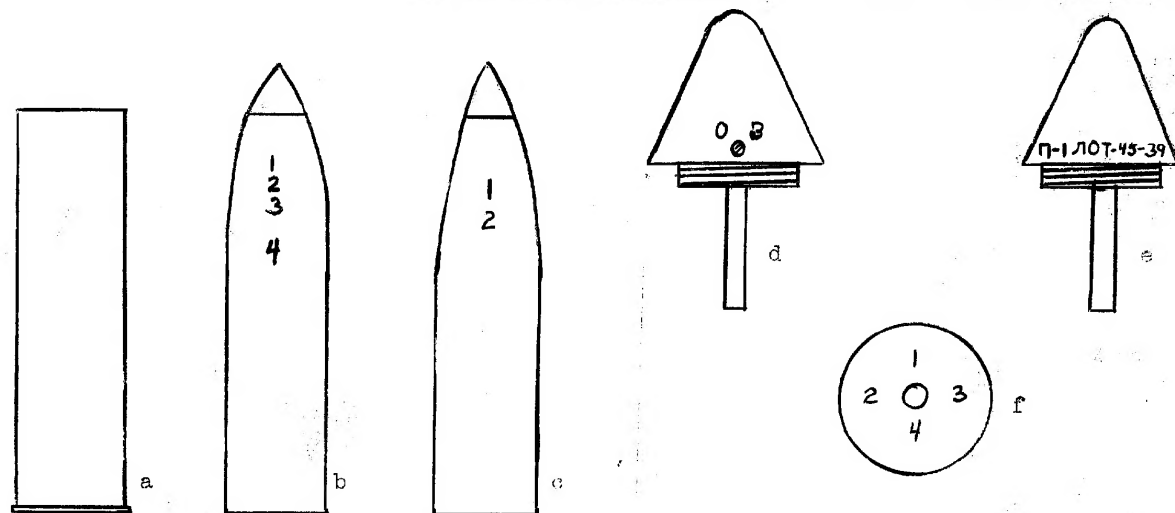
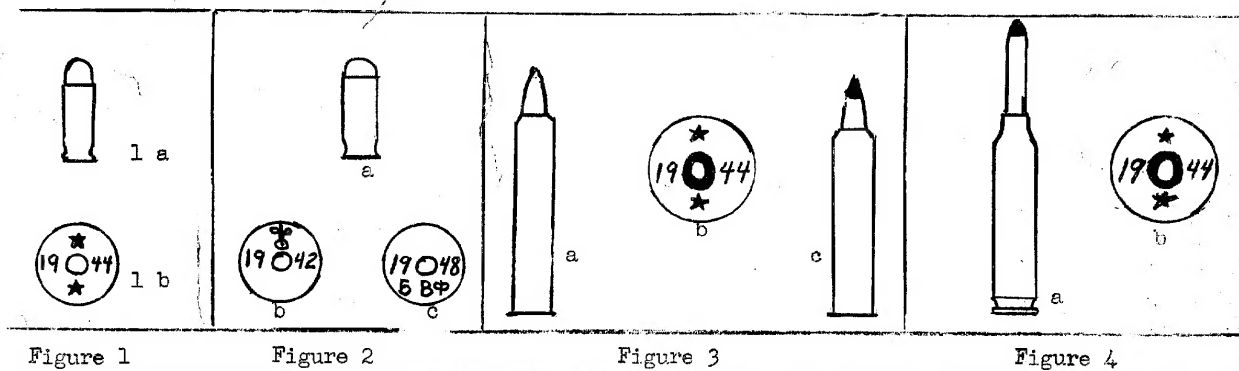


Figure 5

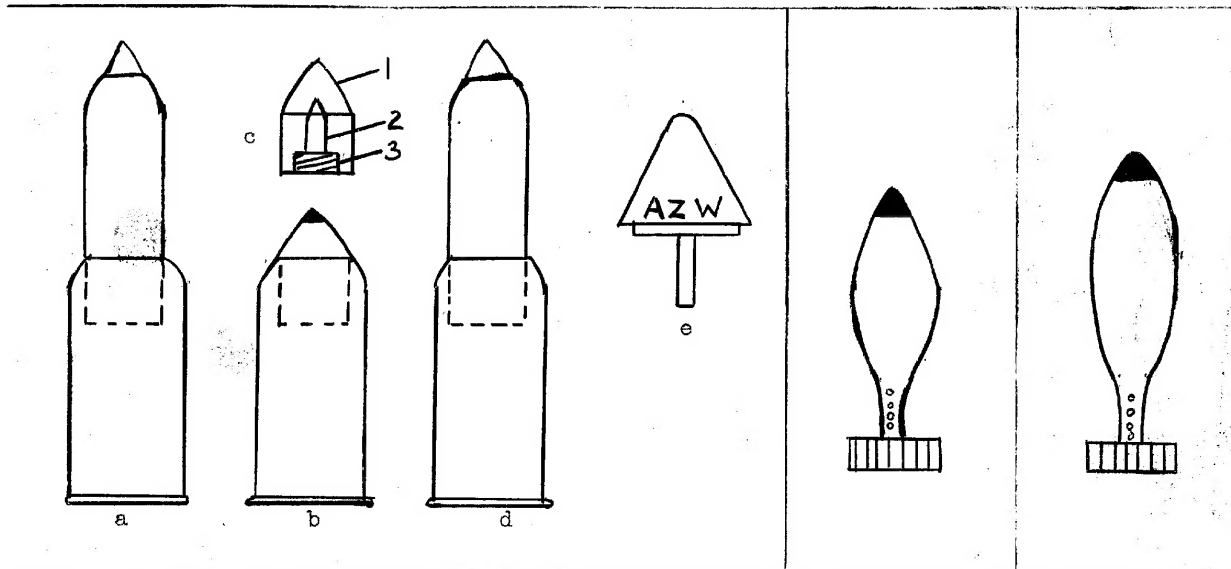


Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

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